



## ***Congressman Bruce Braley: Working for Iowa Nurses***

### ***Member of the Nursing Caucus***

- As a Member of the Nursing Caucus, Rep. Braley is staying well informed on nursing issues fighting for nurses during the debate on health care reform.

### ***Supported HR 3962, the Affordable Health Care for America Act, which included numerous provisions that are good for Iowa nurses***

- The *Affordable Health Care for America Act (HR 3962)* makes a number of improvements in nursing programs, including increasing loan repayment benefits for nursing students and faculty; removing the cap on awards for nursing students pursuing a doctoral degree; and clarifying that nurse-managed health centers are eligible for grant awards. It also authorizes an additional \$638 million over the next five years (FY 2011 – FY 2015) for various nursing programs to be appropriated from the Public Health Investment Fund (under Sec. 2002).

### ***Introduced HR 2201, the Medicare Equity and Accessibility Act of 2009, to increase Medicare reimbursements in Iowa and help Iowa hospitals recruit nurses***

- This legislation would increase Medicare Part B reimbursement rates in Iowa and other rural states in order to help Iowa retain nurses & doctors and improve patient access to quality care. This legislation would institute a permanent floor on the Geographic Practice Cost Indexes under Medicare Part B, directly increasing the Medicare Part B reimbursement to Iowa providers.
- **Rep. Braley successfully inserted similar language into the House Health Care Reform bill.**

### ***Introduced HR 2844, the Medicare Payment Improvement Act, to increase quality of care and lower health care costs, and award Iowa providers for their high-quality, low-cost care***

- This legislation would make a fundamental change in Medicare Part B by finally reimbursing providers more for high quality care and low costs. This would incentivize high quality and low cost health care, instead of the current “fee-for-service” system which only incentivizes quantity.
- **Rep. Braley successfully inserted similar language into the House Health Care Reform bill.**

### ***Passed legislation into law in the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress to reauthorize and expand the National Health Service Corps (NHSC), which Rep. Braley has fought for over years, since authoring and introducing HR 2915, the National Health Service Corps Scholarship and Loan Repayment Programs Reauthorization Act of 2007***

- Rep. Braley’s legislation would reauthorize and increase funding for the NHSC program, which provides scholarships and student loan repayment to nurses, doctors, and other medical personnel who pledge to practice in underserved areas like Iowa. This expansion will help recruit more nurses, doctors and health professionals to Iowa, which will improve access to health care in the state.
- Rep. Braley achieved his goal, inserting language into HR 1343, which passed the House and Senate and was presented to the President on September 30, 2008. This legislation reauthorizes the NHSC and increases the program’s funding by more than \$40 million to over \$185 million, which will help bring more nurses, doctors, social workers, mental health professionals, and other health professionals to Iowa.
- This bill has been endorsed by the **American Nurses Association** and the **American Association for Colleges of Nursing**.

### ***Urging Appropriators to Provide Significant Funding for Nurses and Nursing Education***

- In every year since being elected to Congress (2007, 2008 & 2009), Rep. Braley has contacted the appropriations committee on behalf of nurses and nursing students, to urge increased funding for nursing programs.